St. Joseph's Catholic Church overlooking the Howard County line, and sitting
on a hill above the main street in Sykesville
was probably the first Catholic congregation
in the southern part of the County. Begun
before the Civil War, it was not completed
until 1867-68. The uncoursed stone threebay by three-bay building is very simple in
rectangular plan and small in size, yet
because of it's unusual site it is distinct
in Carroll County church arguitecture.

# INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

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AND/OR COMMON St. Joseph's Catholic	c Church		
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Maryland		Carro	11
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Sykesville	VICINITY OF	Maryland STATE, Z	ip code 21784
COURTHOUSE. Carroll County Office REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. (exempt file)  STREET & NUMBER		Liber #: Folio #: None	
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DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS			
CITY, TOWN		STATE	

\_\_FAIR

CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED \_\_EXCELLENT RUINS **≯**GOOD

\_UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE** 

\_\_UNALTERED ALTERED

**CHECK ONE** 

XORIGINAL SITE

\_MOVED DATE 1868

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Joseph's sits on a hill overlooking the town of Sykesville, facing South towards Howard County. It is located in the town, off the main drag, which is an indirect extension of Md. 32. The structure is a three bay front, three bay side, uncoursed stone building, with a foundation of the same medium. The gable roof is covered with asbestos shingle, and ends with a box cornice. A small, square wooden belfry tops the roof on the southern (front) end. It is wood shingled, has rounded arches on each of the four facades and is topped with an extended end pointed hip roof. Atop the belfry is a cross.

All windows are of stained glass and are rectagular in shape, encased in a rounded brick arch structure with plain trim. The semi-circular top of each where stained glass probably was at one point, has been plastered over, as has been the entire window spaces of the front facade.

Under the front gable was a smaller round window, now covered with

plaster.

The north wall (back) has two recent windows. Space under the

gable is covered with thin weather-boarding.

This one story structure, with basement, and attic space has a one bay deep, covered, recent entrance porch, with textured windows on either side, gable roof and a recent stone stoop entrance. The structure is wood, and leads to recent plain, double wooden doors.

The building sits with a graveyard on its west side, with large trees surrounding it. A very steep, single lane driveway accomodates.

#### INTERIOR\*

The interior is very simple. The nave is eleven pews deep with a center and side aisles. The floor is tile, and the walls are plaster, with plain wainscot. The Chancel area has a turned railing enclosing it. The chancel is elevated and contains numerous altar spaces. The main altar is encased in a rounded arch, plaster wall structure. A closed string, back-stair (south) leads to a choir loft, with turned railing. The open-air, choir is supported by two columns. Architectural decoration is limited. The entrance to the church is through one doorway - southern facade entrance.

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
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SPECIFIC DATES

1868

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For earlier Catholic Church history in the Carroll County area, refer to St. Joseph in Taneytown, Maryland, CARR. -284.

St. Joseph's Church in Sykesville was begun before the Civil War, but was not completed until 1867-68. For a short period of time, when the walls were up but not the roof, services were held open-air. The same roof save minor repairs, still sits on the structure. The organization of the church was by Jesuits.

The simple structure which sits in the very south of the county and overlooks the county lines of Howard and Carroll, is a later addition to Catholicism in the county. It was probably the first congregation to organize and build in this half of the county. Its site above and overlooking the town is unique in church building in the county.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES MAIN SOURCE (1) CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF CARROLL COUNTY - 1804-1834 COMPILED BY BRANFORD GIST LYNCH Dem. Advocate, 1937

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CITY OR TOWN

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Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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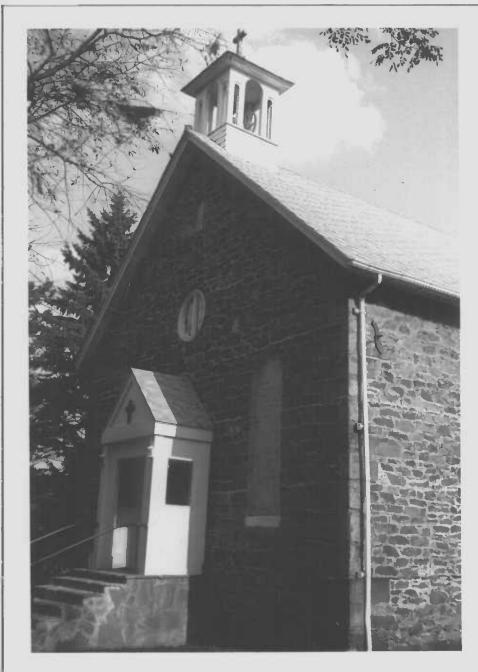
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